

December 1, 1960

Dr. Leland J. Rather  
Department of Pathology  
Stanford School of Medicine

Dear Leland:

Your note of the 28th really pricked my conscience that I had not made a more explicit reply to the inquiry from the Dean's Office about the desire of prolonging the Bulletin. However, I thought I had expressed myself on this point orally at an Executive Faculty meeting and this may be one reason that I did not formulate a more detailed report in writing. One suggestion that I had made is similar but not quite identical to the four features that you mention, namely, that where there was sufficient general interest, the Bulletin might reprint entire articles that had appeared elsewhere. Since most of us deal with our colleagues on a national basis and along disciplinary lines, it is a little difficult to justify a special effort for unique publication in a regional bulletin and I think this does go for Yale and Johns Hopkins as well as for Stanford. But I think it would serve a very useful purpose for the alumni as well as for the local faculty to use the Bulletin not only for reviews and abstracts but also for general articles even if these have appeared elsewhere. I think if you asked for them, quite a number of reprints and manuscripts would go to your office and it should be up to your judgement to select those that would be most appropriate. I am enclosing one on exobiology which, to tell the truth, has probably been reprinted too many times elsewhere - however, if you felt that it would reach a new audience by appearing in the Bulletin and you wanted to use it, I am sure I could make arrangements to release the copyright. I will ask my colleagues about reactions to items 1 and 4; if you do not hear from us immediately it may be that we consider the time not quite right for topical reviews of what is going on here but these may be forthcoming in the future. As a matter of fact, it might not be too bad an idea to ask individual departments to plan to write a specific review of their program for a particular issue of the Bulletin and I wonder if this would be badly received. We could do this sort of thing now but Genetics is still of such recent history at Stanford that I would prefer to wait about a year before doing this ourselves.

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Let me say that I am personally delighted that you have agreed to continue in these duties and I hope that you will understand that "the press of more urgent matters" rather than active disinterest may account for the decibell rating from your colleagues.

One article from another school that I think would be very well worth reprinting in the Bulletin is the one that Packer in the Law School put out not very long ago on the law of abortion.

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

cc: Dr. Alway